

Seattle Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 1, 2012, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present:

Damien Carter, Nika Dahlbacka, Joshua Marshall, Marsha Mavunkel, Andrea Negrete, Mariah Ortiz, Merri Ann Osborne, Mica Powers, Greg Ramirez, Christopher Stearns, Jennifer Yogi

Commissioners by Phone:

Marty Penner

Commissioners Absent:

Jessica Andrade, Jesse Aspuria, Michael Plengrat, Roslyn Solomon

SOCR Staff Present:

Felicia Yearwood, Michael Chin

Guests:

Emily Murphy (Tenants Union) Melissa Watkinson (UW Bothell), interns Hazelruth Adams and Jung Lee, and several students from the University of Washington

Call to Order:

Damien Carter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

February 2012 minutes were approved as read

SOCR report:

Michael Chin

- Commissioners are invited to attend and publicize a community meeting seeking input on the RSJI three year plan, March 10, 2012, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., New Holly Gathering Hall
- The Enforcement Division is drafting regulations for Paid Sick and Safe Leave

Guests:

Emily Murphy, Community Organizer, Tenants Union

- Seeking letter of support for an interior inspection program, which would require inspection of all rental housing units in Seattle on a 3-5 year cycle

Melissa Watkinson, UW Bothell, Community Based Learning

- Students in the Law and Human Rights class at UW Bothell might be available for small short term projects of approximately 15 hours in April and May 2012

Committee Reports:

Human Rights Analysis Tool: Hazelruth Adams is interviewing commissioners and conducting research into tools and analysis used by human rights agencies around the nation to develop a tool that will help the SHRC determine which issues to address and how best to address them. She will complete the project in early June.

SHRC History Project: Jung Lee has nearly completed information gathering from a range of sources and has developed a time line of major accomplishments for each of the past five decades. She now seeks to interview past commission chairs. A suggestion was made to check the [Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project](#).

Nominating Committee: Committee members (Joshuah Marshall, Andrea Negrete, Marsha Mavunkel, and Mariah Ortiz) will develop a contact list using an online collaboration tool, identify needed skills and experience, and revise the press release.

Law and Policy Analysis: Jennifer Yogi expects to meet with Council Member Harrell soon. Andrea Negrete will join the committee.

Appeals: April panel: Jennifer Yogi, Mariah Ortiz, and tentatively Nika Dahlbacka

Human Rights Day: Joshuah Marshall will serve on the planning committee.

Executive:

- February 15, 2012 Public Safety, Civil Rights, and Technology Committee meeting attended by Chris Stearns, Roslyn Solomon, Marty Penner, Nika Dahlbacka, Joshuah Marshall, Mariah Ortiz, and Marsha Mavunkel. Discussed Commission's recommendations on reform of police oversight.
- Waiting for dates for work plan presentation to Mayor and Council
- Seek ratification of letter sent to Immigration and Customs Enforcement
MOTION: To ratify February 27th letter to Immigration and Customs Enforcement seeking prosecutorial discretion to refrain from deporting Al Okere. **ACTION: PASSED**

New Business

- Bias Crimes Forum in June: Nika Dahlbacka and Marsha Mavunkel to lead
- Vendor Code of Conduct: Mariah Ortiz and Jennifer Yogi to lead
- Process for Issue Identification and Outreach to Organizations: Mica Powers to develop online collaboration tool
- Right to Food Summit at Seattle University, April 24th, Felicia Yearwood will forward an invitation to the Women's Commission
- United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Professor James Anaya will visit the United States in April and May
MOTION: To invite Professor Anaya to visit Seattle. **ACTION: PASSED**

Adjourned at 8:01 p.m.